

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, 1954.

Chairman - Councillor J. Thomas, J.P., Glynecorrgw.
 Vice-Chairman - Councillor H.I. Abraham, J.P., Cymmer.

Councillor H. Field, J.P. Abergwynfi.	Councillor I. Davies, Abergwynfi.
Councillor A.T. Hunt,	" J.E. Hopkins, Cymmer.
" J. Price,	" F. Marchant, "
" K. Jones,	" W. Lewis, "
" D. Williams,	" A. Leonard, Glynecorrgw.
" T. Williams, J.P. Cymmer.	" Glyn Williams, "
" J.G. Miles,	" J.A. Evans, "
" Idwal George,	"

General Purposes Committee.

Chairman - Councillor T. Williams, J.P. Cymmer.
 Housing Committee Chairman - Councillor W. Lewis, Cymmer.
 Finance Committee Chairman - Councillor A.T. Hunt, Abergwynfi.

Officials.

Clerk and Chief Financial Officer to the Council.....	Mr. Llewelyn Morgan, A.I.M.T.A.
Surveyor and Engineer.....	Mr. T.J. Walker, A.R.I.C.S.
Assistant Surveyor and Engineer...	Mr. N. Miles, B.Sc.(Civil Eng.)
Assistant Surveyor and Engineer...	Mr. G. Bidder.
Engineer's Clerk.....	Mr. P. Evans.
Treasurer.....	Midland Bank Ltd., Cymmer.
Medical Officer of Health.....	Dr. D.H.J. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector.....	Mr. John Tate, Cert. Royal San. Institute and San. Inspector's Exam. Joint Board, Meat Insp. Cert. Royal San. Institute.
Chief Finance Clerk.....	Mr. S. Fuge.
Accountancy Assistant.....	Mr. R.G. Dayson.
General Clerk.....	Mr. R. Eckett.
" "	Mr. E. Glave.
Housing Collector.....	Mr. E. Hughes.
" "	Mr. J. Davies (from 1st. April, 1954)
Junior Clerk.....	Miss Enid Isaac (ceased 12th. June, 1954)
" "	Miss Julie Amato (from 24th. May, 1954)

GLYNCORRWG URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Glynccorrwg Urban District Council.

Gentlemen/

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health as contained in Circular 1/55 (Wales), I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended 31st. December, 1954.

All known and recognised factors affecting the health of the population require consideration and in the following pages a statistical and factual report is made on these factors.

The incidence of infectious diseases, the birth and death rates including the various causes of death are analysed. Consideration is given to the District's water supplies, disposal methods including refuse and sewage and details included of the work carried out in the field of housing.

The handling and hygiene of food, the conditions of slaughterhouses and premises where food for human consumption is prepared and stored receives consideration and is carefully supervised by your officers.

Factories are supervised from the sanitary standpoint, canteens are visited periodically to ensure the maintenance of regular high standards.

No introductory remarks prefacing the Annual Report would be complete without an expression of my appreciation of the wonderful spirit of co-operation I have experienced from the Members of Council and from my colleagues on the staff during the period under review.

In particular I would like to thank Mr. John Tate, your Sanitary Inspector, for his unfailing loyalty and diligence in performing his many and varied duties for the Authority and for his valuable participation in the preparation of this Annual Report.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the staff of the Divisional Health Office for their work in compilation of the statistical data incorporated in the Report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D.H.J. WILLIAMS.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

1. In order to appreciate the state of the health of the population residing in the area it is first necessary to estimate the numbers of persons involved and I append below the Registrar General's estimate for the mid-year 1954. This is compared with the population statistics for previous years.

For the year 1954	the estimated population was	9,550
" " " 1953	" " " "	9,490
" " " 1952	" " " "	9,388
" " " 1931	the census	10,208
" " " 1921	" " " "	10,772
" " " 1911	" " " "	8,689
" " " 1901	" " " "	6,452

The rateable value of the area for the year ended 31st. December, 1954 was as follows:-

General Rate purposes	£31,417. 0. Od.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£114. 0. Od.

2. BIRTHS

There were 197 live births, 105 males and 92 females, during the year. 6 stillbirths were recorded of which none were illegitimate.

The birth-rate was 20.63 per 1000 population as compared with 19.28 in 1953.

The following table is of interest:-

Number of live births at home in the area:-	112
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers) in Neath General Hospital:-	78
Number of live births (Glyncorrwg U.D.C. mothers) in Maesteg Maternity Home and Bridgend General Hospital:-	7

Of the 197 live births registered during the period under review 85 occurred in hospital. Non-emergency beds are available at Neath General Hospital and at Bridgend General Hospital and these are allocated by the Divisional Medical Officer in cases of need. First births, overcrowding, medical and obstetric problems particularly where difficult home conditions obtain, qualify for consideration for hospital confinement.

3. DEATHS

The total number of deaths during 1954 was 87, comprising 44 males and 43 females. The death rates per thousand of the population in recent years are as follows:-

1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.
9.11	10.64	10.12	13.06	9.61	11.2	11.9	14.9	11.8

The death rate for the whole of England and Wales during 1954 was 11.3.

Diseases of the Heart and Blood vessels and cancer continue to be the main causes of death in the area.

4. INFANT MORTALITY

Ten infants, under one year of age, died during the year. The infant mortality rate - number of deaths of infants under one year per 1000 live births - was 50.76. The figure for the whole of England and Wales was 25.5. Comparisons of the annual rates are as follows:-

1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.
50.76	43.72	23.15	40.91	72.63	56	74	56	71

At first glance these statistics give a grave picture but it will be appreciated that in a small area where the total birth rate is small the death of one infant can cause a greater impact than such a death would cause in an area where the number of births is great. This in some measure mitigates the statistical analysis but in no way lessens the concern felt by your officers for each child that fails to survive is a loss inconsolable to the bereaved parents and to the nation as a whole. No effort is being spared to combat this wastage of human life. At the end of this report is included a table giving the certified causes of death of the ten infants who failed to survive to their first birthday.

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY

It is pleasing to report that, during 1954, there were no deaths of mothers due to pregnancy, or childbirth.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE URBAN AREA.

Since the implementation of the provisions of the National Health Services Act 1946, Health Services are delegated to three principal bodies.

1. The Regional Hospital Boards.
2. The Executive Councils.
- and 3. The Local Health Authorities.

For the information of Council and for ready reference I append below under their respective headings the services provided by each responsible body.

1. Regional Hospital Boards.

The Glyncoerrwg Urban District Council area falls into the area administered by the Mid Glamorgan Hospital Management Committee and patients from the Urban area are seen and are given treatment at the following hospitals in this Committee area.

- (i) Neath General Hospital.
- (ii) Bridgend General Hospital.
- (iii) Tonna Children's Hospital.
- (iv) Maesteg General Hospital.
- (v) Bridgend Cottage Hospital.
- (vi) Maesteg Isolation Hospital.
- (vii) Cefn Hirgoed Hospital.
- (viii) Groeswen Isolation Hospital.
- (ix) Port Talbot General Hospital.
- (x) Maesteg Maternity Hospital.
- (xi) Blackmill Isolation Hospital.
- (xii) Heddfan.
- (xiii) Cynala Chest Hospital.
- (xiv) Penyffai Hospital.

From time to time patients from the area are admitted to hospitals outside the Committee area such as:

Sully Hospital for Chest Diseases.

Cardiff Hospitals.

Swansea General Hospital.

Hill House Isolation Hospital and Morriston Hospital when specialised forms of treatment have been prescribed.

Patients suffering from tuberculosis and other chest diseases are normally seen at the Bridgend and Maesteg Chest Clinics where diagnostic facilities are available and where the routine examinations and surveillance of both patients and contacts can be carried out.

Veneral Diseases are dealt with at a Special Out-patient clinic held in premises at Station Approach, Port Talbot.

11. The Executive Councils.

The administration of the General Practitioner, Dental, Pharmaceutical and Supplementary Ophthalmic Services is carried out by the Glamorgan Executive Committee.

Two partnerships, both of two doctors serve within the area, supplemented to a limited degree by general practitioners from the adjoining Maesteg area. The partnership system of general practice commends itself inasmuch as it provides for an adequate twenty-four hour service and meets all patients requirements.

There is one pharmacy in the area and this has served well to relieve the general practitioners of much of their dispensing duties.

It is still a matter of regret that no dental or ophthalmic services are available within the Urban area, patients requiring these forms of treatment having to seek them in the adjoining areas of Maesteg, Neath or Port Talbot.

111. Local Health Authority Services.

The services provided by the Local Health Authority include:

- (a) Ante Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics.
- (b) Domiciliary Midwifery Service.
- (c) Domiciliary Nursing Service.
- (d) Home Help Service.
- (e) Health Visitor Service.
- (f) County Ambulance Service.

With the exception of the last, which is administered direct by the County Council, all the day to day administration for these services is carried out by your Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Divisional Medical Officer for the Port Talbot and Glyncoirwg Health Division of the Glamorgan County Council. It is felt that this is an excellent arrangement for your Medical Officer if thus in a position to administer both services, Local Health and District work.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

To the above services should of course be added the School Medical Services which operates under the Education Acts. It works parallel to but is closely linked to the National Health Service. Free dental and ophthalmic provisions are made within the area and clinics for these purposes are available.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All bacteriological and Chemical Examinations of water, milk etc., are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff.

H O U S I N G .

During 1954 thirty Council houses were completed and let to tenants. This number would have been much greater but for the serious slow down of building operations due to the financial and other difficulties of the contractor building the Unity type houses on the Croeserw Housing site, Cymmer. Eventually, towards the end of the year, steps had to be taken to relieve the firm of this work and the Council proceeded to complete the unfinished portion of the contract by direct labour.

Since 1945 the Council have built 415 houses of which 320 are situated at the Croeserw Housing Estate, Cymmer. A further 54 houses are in course of erection at Croeserw and roads and sewers have been laid for an additional 76 houses in Glyncoerrwg.

Up to the end of 1954 therefore, 282 pre-war and 415 post-war houses had been erected, making a total of 697 Council houses. Of the pre-war houses, sixteen - situated at Duffryn Rhondda - have been demolished or vacated prior to demolishing, because of damage to the structures due to mining subsidence.

As a result of this building programme the number of applicants for Council houses has diminished to some extent but the following table shows that the total number remains fairly high:-

1. Number of applicants who are now living in apartments	- 252
2. Number of applicants who are householders	- 166
3. Number of applicants who are already tenants of Council houses	- 64
4. Number of applicants (not included in 1 & 2) who are not resident in the Glyncoerrwg Urban District	- 75

From these figures it will be seen that families living in apartments, who have no home of their own, form the largest single group of applicants. Whilst in the difficult days of depression such families would probably have been content to remain in such conditions, present-day standards of higher wages and full employment make it possible for these families to want and seek homes of their own. It can be assumed that the majority of the other applicants are householders desirous of a better standard of housing accommodation.

The proportion of building labour in the district which is concerned with housing repairs and work continues to be inadequate and great difficulty is experienced in getting owners to comply with repair and sanitary notices.

Proceedings in Magistrates Courts were taken in twelve instances for non-compliance with Statutory Notices requiring the abatement of nuisances due to disrepair.

Dangerous structures were the subject of eleven notices under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

The following housing details are of interest:-

1. Number of new dwelling houses erected during the year:-
 - (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (B)) 31
 - (b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts:-
 - (i) Built by the Local Authority..... 30
 - (ii) Built by other bodies or persons..... 1
2. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year
 1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....164
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....601
 2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above,) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925..... 0
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 0
 3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 2
 4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....139
3. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.
 Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 61
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
 - A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 & 16 of Housing Act, 1936 -
 - (1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs..... 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:
 - (a) By owners..... 0
 - (b) By Local Authority..... 0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts -

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 78
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice:
 - (a) By Owners..... 49
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners..... 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 12 Housing Act, 1936 -

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 0
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order..... 0

5. Housing Act, 1936 - Part iv. - Overcrowding:-

- (a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... } Information not available.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein.... }
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.... }
- (b) - Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 0
- (c) - (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 0
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases..... 0
- (d) Number of cases in which dwellings have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... 0

6. Bed Bug Infestation: the sanitary inspector's services are available for all householders. Wherever there is any suspicion, he inspects the bedding and furniture of incoming tenants of council houses.

The disinfection is by means of the insecticide known as D.D.T. either in liquid or powder form.

Number of council houses disinfested.....	3
Number of other houses disinfested.....	5

There are no common lodging houses, camp sites or inhabited tents, vans and sheds in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The total rainfall in the area during 1954 was 113.14 inches. When compared with the average annual rainfall of 75.29 inches over the past ten years, it will be seen that the total was exceptionally heavy even for this district.

It is hardly necessary to add that water supplies were abundant for all purposes during the year under review.

Early in the year there came into operation, on the Croeserw Housing Site, Cymmer, the pumping station and service reservoir which are designed to supply 400 houses at the highest levels on the estate. The service reservoir has a capacity of 40,000 gallons and at the pumping station are installed two electrically operated pumps under automatic control which fill the reservoir at night.

Water service mains of three inch and four inch diameter were also laid to the Mynscoerwg housing site, Glyncorrwg, where it is proposed to build 76 houses.

To ensure the purity of water supplies in the area, thirty-six samples of water were taken during the year for bacteriological examination.

Results were unsatisfactory in three instances and these were referred to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for attention. Repeat samples from the sources showing bad results were in every case satisfactory.

Chemical analyses show that waters from our four main sources of supply are soft in character and are probably lead solvent, consequently the use of lead in water service pipes in the area is not allowed.

2,466 dwelling houses with an estimated population of 9,409, were supplied directly from the council's water mains. Seven houses were supplied from a public water main by means of a standpipe.

The main sources of water supply in the area are as follows:-

1. High Level Tank, Glyncorrwg. This water is taken from the stream Nantyrallor which has its source and gathering ground on the slopes of Mynydd Mynscoerwg. This tank supplies the village of Glyncorrwg.

2. Low Level Tank, Glyncoerrwg. The gathering ground of the stream Nantygroes which supplies this tank is also on the western slopes of Mynydd Ynyscoerrwg. Abercregan and the north side of Cymmer are supplied from this source.
3. Gwynfi Reservoir, Blaengwynfi. Water from the Gwynfi reservoir is impounded from the Gwynfi brook, which has its source and gathering ground on Mynydd Abergwynfi. It supplies the south side of Cymmer, including the Croeserw Housing Estate, and the villages of Duffryn Rhondda and Cynonville.
4. East Level Waterworks, Abergwynfi. This is an underground source of supply taken from the stream which issues from the mouth of the old and disused colliery working known as East Level. The needs of the whole of Abergwynfi and part of Blaengwynfi are met from this source of supply.

The seven houses in Fforchlas, Abercregan are supplied from a spring about 70 yards to the north west on rising ground. A small concrete tank is installed and the water conveyed to a stand pipe in the middle of the terrace.

The Cwmcas houses have a private piped supply to each house from a concrete tank on rising ground at the rear. This tank is supplied from an adjacent spring.

Fluorine in Drinking Water.

The following may be of interest to members.

A chemical analysis of water from the East Level at Abergwynfi showed the presence of Fluorine in a concentration of 0.1 part per million.

As this substance when present in concentrations of 1.0 part per million has been found to have a beneficial effect on the teeth of children, a special survey was carried out by the Dental staff of the Glamorgan County Council in order to determine if the teeth of Abergwynfi children were stronger and healthier than those of children in other parts of the area.

The results however were disappointing - no difference in the incidence of caries or decay being found. From this it must therefore be assumed that Fluorine in the concentration naturally existing in Abergwynfi is not sufficient to have a beneficial effect.

HYGIENE OF FACTORIES.

Local authorities are required by the Factories Act, 1937 to administer the provisions of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences in all factories and the provisions relating to cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, and drainage of floors, in factories in which mechanical power is not used.

Local authorities are also responsible for securing in factories adequate precautions against fire, the administration of bakehouses and certain other matters relating to public health.

A register must also be kept of all factories in the district.

Factories Act, 1937.
Prescribed particulars on the administration
of the Factories Act, 1937.
Part 1 of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health - 1954
 (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	21	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	8	49	3	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	5	11	-	-
Total	17	81	4	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	<u>Number of Cases in which</u> <u>Defects were found.</u>		<u>Referred</u>		<u>Number of</u> <u>cases in</u> <u>which pros-</u> <u>ecutions</u> <u>were</u> <u>instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>To H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M.</u> <u>Inspector</u>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	-

Outworkers.

3. There were two outworkers in the August list required by Section 110, Factories Act, 1937. No action was necessary to be taken under Section 110 and 111 of the Act.

HYGIENE OF FOOD.

The Food and Drugs Amendment Act, 1954 received the Royal Assent on the 25th. November, 1954, but the Minister of Food has not yet appointed the day on which it will come into operation.

Among the main provisions of the Act are those concerned with protecting the community from:-

1. The sale of injurious foods and adulterated drugs.
2. Misleading labelling and advertising of foods and drugs.
3. The contamination of food during preparation, distribution and sale.

In regard to food hygiene, the Minister is given wide powers, in Section 6 of the Act, to make regulations for securing the observance of sanitary and hygienic conditions and practices in connection with the sale, handling and preparation of food intended for sale.

An interesting feature of the new Act is concerned with the issue by the Minister of codes of practice giving advice and guidance as to compliance with these regulations. These codes will be the subject of recommendations only and will not be enforceable.

A Food Hygienic Advisory Council will be appointed by the Minister who will advise on questions relating to food and on the drafting of certain of the regulations and orders to be made under the Act.

1. MEAT AND OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

Visits of inspection to the number of 281 were paid to premises where persons were engaged on the preparation, storage and display of food for sale.

Four notices were served on occupiers of the above premises for breaches of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

These included - accumulation of refuse, defective W.C.'s and overdue linewashing of walls and ceilings of food preparation and warehouse rooms.

The notices were complied with in every instance.

The following articles of food, which were found to be diseased, unwholesome or unsound, were surrendered and destroyed or otherwise disposed of:-

Beef	201 lbs.	Tinned meat	89 lbs.
Tinned cooked ham	65 "	Corned beef	29 "
Stewed steak	8 tins	Sausage and beans	3 tins
Fruit	31 "	Tomatoes	58 "
Evaporated milk	39 "	Condensed milk	1 "
Soup	3 "	Syrup	2 "
Baked beans	7 "	Cream	1 "
Peas	15 "	Jan	4 "
Butter	80 lbs	Chéesc	40 lbs.
Spaghetti	4 tins		

The number and classification of premises in the urban area used for the preparation of food for sale are given below:-

Fried Fish and Chip Shops	-	6
Butchers making Sausages, Faggots etc.	-	5
Ice-cream makers	-	1
Colliery and Factory Canteens	-	5
School Canteens	-	8
Cafes	-	8

There is one licensed slaughterhouse in the area.

There are five butchers' shops. These shops are well lighted and ventilated and good standards of cleanliness are maintained. All have refrigerators. Adequate hand washing facilities are provided in each of the premises.

There are three bakehouses in use in the area situated as follows:-

Abergwynfi	-	2	Cymmer	-	1
------------	---	---	--------	---	---

The statutory requirements applicable to bakehouses are contained in the Factories Act, 1937 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Three notices were served during the year for non-observance of these provisions as follows:-

Linewashing required	-	2
Choked drain from W.C.	-	1

The notices were all promptly complied with.

A large and increasing proportion of the bread consumed in the area is sold by Van-salesmen employed by firms controlling large factory bakehouses situated outside the urban district.

A popular product of these firms is the sliced wrapped loaf which eases the work of housewives particularly those who have to make up packed meals.

2. ICE-CREAM.

The minimum standard of composition for ice-cream is prescribed by the Minister of Food in the Food Standards (Ice-cream) Order, 1951.

The Order provides that ice-cream must contain at least 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fat.

The County Council, being the Food and Drugs Authority, is responsible for seeing that this standard is maintained.

During 1954, inspectors of the authority took three ice-cream samples in the Glyncoirwg Urban District. One of the samples was found on analysis to be deficient in fat to the extent of not less than 42%. Proceedings were taken against the vendor resulting in a fine of £10 plus 15/-d. analyst's fee.

The hygienic quality of the ice-cream is ascertained by means of the methylene blue reduction test which is used to assess bacterial growth. During the year twenty-four samples were taken for this purpose by your Sanitary Inspector and submitted for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Cardiff, the results are as follows:-

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number of Samples	attaining	Provisional	Grade	1	=	24
"	"	"	"	"	"	2
"	"	"	"	"	"	0
"	"	"	"	"	"	0
"	"	"	"	"	"	0
						<u>24</u>

Grade 1 is provisionally interpreted as "Satisfactory"

" 2 " " " " " "Fair"

" 3 " " " " " "Unsatisfactory"

" 4 " " " " " "Very unsatisfactory"

3. MILK

Milk is an important part of the diet of the majority of the 50 million inhabitants of the United Kingdom. Its food value is unquestioned and it is claimed by many authorities that the great improvement in the health of the people, especially the children, since 1939 is due to the increased consumption of milk. As a nation we are now consuming 5.2 pints of milk per week per head of the population.

Administration of the law relating to the nation's milk supply has always been a large and important part of the duties of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

Milk production, processing and distribution are controlled in the main by the following Acts which are designed to ensure a safe clean milk.

The Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944.

The Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950.

It is thought by many that the only safe milks are those of "Special Designation" which conform to the requirements of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949 to 1954.

In this connection the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health are now empowered to make Orders specifying areas within which all milk sold by retail must be of "special designation".

Parts of Wales have already been specified and we have information that Neath, Port Talbot and district, which includes the Glyncothwrg Urban area, will be the subject of an Order which will come into force in 1955.

"Specially designated" milks are tuberculin tested milk which is untreated, and pasteurised and sterilised milks which are treated by heat.

The following table gives the number and classification of registered persons engaged and registered premises used in the production, sale and storage of milk:-

Cowkeepers	-	4
Registered distributors of milk	-	9
Milk shops where milk sold in sealed bottles	-	6
Premises used as dairies	-	9

Eight retailers were licensed to sell pasteurised milk and two to sell tuberculin tested milk, during the year.

Fourteen samples of milk produced by registered cowkeepers within the Glyncoerrwg Urban District were examined during the year for the presence of tubercle bacilli. All the samples proved to be negative.

During 1954, four samples of ungraded milk, sixteen samples of pasteurised milk and one sample of tuberculin tested milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspector from retailers of milk in the area, and taken to the Cardiff and County Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The tests used for the various analyses of samples have been recorded in previous Annual Reports. The results of these tests of course refer only to the samples submitted. It is thus necessary to maintain serial investigations to maintain adequate control on the supplies.

The ungraded milk samples were all of milk produced on farms within the Glyncoerrwg Urban District and the results in each case were satisfactory.

The samples of pasteurised and tuberculin tested milks were from producers and wholesale dealers established outside the urban area. Here again it is satisfactory to note that all the samples attained the required standards.

4. RODENT CONTROL.

It is essential, in the interests of hygiene, sanitation and the prevention of damage and waste of foodstuffs that control should be exercised over pests, particularly rats and mice.

Under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, it is the duty of every local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure, as far as practicable, that their district is kept free from rats and mice and for this purpose:-

1. From time to time to carry out such inspections as may be necessary.
2. To destroy rats and mice on any land or premises of which they are occupiers.
3. To enforce the duties laid upon owners and occupiers under the provisions of the Act and to carry out rodent control operations authorised by those provisions.

Administration of the law in this matter is centred in the public health department and the duties fall within the responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector.

Surveys of business premises, river banks, council properties etc., in the area are made twice a year and infested premises are poison treated by the council's sewerman who is also part-time rodent operative.

The Council's sewer manholes are treated and the refuse tips at least three times a year.

Poisons used are zinc phosphide, arsenic and warfarin.

The table below gives particulars of rodent control work carried out during 1954.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Report for year ended 31st. December, 1954.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	
1. Total number of properties in district	46	2496	21	259	2801
2. Number of properties inspected during 1954 as a result of:-					
(a) notification	0	23	0	8	31
(b) survey	17	63	20	44	107
(c) otherwise	8	147	0	101	256
3. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats					
Major	1	-	-	-	1
Minor	4	23	0	11	38
4. Number of properties which were found to be infested by mice.	2	18	0	2	22

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	All other (including business premises)	
5. Number of infested properties treated.	7	44	0	13	61
6. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural Works	-	-	-	-	-
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken.	-	-	-	-	-
8. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
9. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	= 1				

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, Mr. John Tate, the Sanitary Inspector, has, by inspection of the area, to keep himself informed of the sanitary circumstances of the district and in respect of nuisances that require abatement. Under other Acts, Regulations and Orders, he has a variety of other duties.

A summary of his inspections and visits during 1954 is as follows:-

GENERAL DISTRICT INSPECTIONS:-Number

Abergwynfi and Blaengwynfi.....	15
Cymmer.....	8
Duffryn Rhondda and Cynonville.....	8
Glyncorrwg.....	9

HOUSING AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS:-

Dwelling houses in respect of defects and nuisances due to dis-repair.....	164
Re-visits to dwelling houses - as above.....	437
Defective and new drains.....	56
Cinemas and Halls.....	21
Dangerous and dilapidated buildings and structures....	44
Stables.....	2
Piggeries.....	25

HYGIENE OF FOOD INSPECTIONS:-

Dairies and milk shops.....	50
Butchers' shops, fish shops, grocery stores and food preparation places.....	281

FACTORY INSPECTIONS.....	81
--------------------------	----

<u>INSPECTIONS UNDER SHOPS ACT 1934</u>	54
---	----

PEST CONTROL INSPECTIONS

Rodent Control.....	101
Bed Bug infestation.....	14

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS

Miscellaneous nuisances.....	27
Defective sewers.....	13
Water works and water supply.....	53
Infectious diseases and disinfections.....	21

Total number of inspections.....	<u>1483</u>
----------------------------------	-------------

Action taken in cases of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations discovered during inspections is summarised as follows:-

Subject of inspections	Nature of breaches of Acts, Orders and Regulations	No. of Informal Notices	No. of Statutory Notices	Number of Notices complied with	
				Informal	Statutory
Dwelling Houses under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Dampness, Disrepair, Defective paved areas, W.C.'s				
Dwelling houses on complaint of a nuisance.	Drainage, etc.	139	78	61	49
Miscellaneous nuisances.	Dead Sheep, Deposits of Manure, Deposits of house refuse, etc.	6	3	3	3
Dairies and Milkshops.	Churns not cleansed before returning to wholesale producer. Dairy premises requiring repair.	2	0	2	0
Dangerous or dilapidated buildings and structures.	Buildings or structures dilapidated or dangerous.	11	11	0	9
Butcher shops, Fish shops, Grocery and Provision stores and places where food is prepared.	Removal of refuse, cleansing and Lime-washing required. Provision of adequate washing facilities etc.	3	1	2	1
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces (including Bakehouses)	Cleansing and Lime-washing required. Defective drainage. Sanitary conveniences insufficient.	4	2	2	2
Pigstyes.	Cleansing and Lime-washing required.	4	0	4	0
Drains.	Defective and choked.	14	3	11	3
Domestic Water Supplies.	Insufficient. Houses without water supply.	24	22	2	22
"	Wastage.	11	4	7	4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OR FEVERS.

The following table shows the distribution of notified infectious diseases and tuberculosis in the different wards of the area:-

Disease	Glyncorwg	Cymer	Abergwynfi	Total for 1954	Total for 1953
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	3	1	5	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	3
Measles	1	-	-	1	35
Whooping Cough	-	4	-	4	6
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	1
Erysipelas	-	1	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	8	9	5	22	21
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	1	3	1	5	5
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Whilst the incidence of other notifiable infectious diseases continues to decline with only localised minor exacerbations tuberculosis continues to be a serious problem and this is true of the area of the Glyncorwg Urban District.

With the introduction and increasingly wide spread use of heat-treated and designated milk, there has been a marked reduction in the notifications of non-pulmonary forms of tuberculosis. This however cannot yet be said of the pulmonary or respiratory form.

In years gone by the death-rate from tuberculosis was high and in some measure this served to keep down the numbers on Tuberculosis Registers. In a way, it also served to reduce the potential reservoir of infection available in the community.

With improved care and treatment by an active follow up and examination of contacts and by improved diagnostic facilities, cases of tuberculosis found in an early stage of infection can and are being treated with good effect and prognosis. Though the course of treatment is oftentimes long and arduous and the subsequent period of surveillance protracted an ever increasing number of cases return to the community to be gainfully employed.

Three lines of attack are open in the battle against tuberculosis, to which it is felt should be added a fourth.

1. Early and intensive treatment of the actual case, in hospital or sanatorium. Where difficulty in obtaining beds occur this treatment can be commenced at the patient's own home and in areas where there is a relatively high incidence of tuberculosis this is extensive. Whilst this method commends itself inasmuch as treatment of a positive nature can be instituted early, the dangers of spread in the family circle need to be remembered and intensive education of the family and immediate contacts must be done to combat this.

2. Close surveillance and careful examination of contacts, particularly contacts in the home and family.

3. Health Education in the family and in the community.

and 4. Prophylactic or preventive immunisation of Mantoux negative reactors in the community.

At present this form of preventive work is available to all contacts of known cases of tuberculosis and is administered in the Chest Clinics. A further extension of this form of prevention is at the time of preparation of this report becoming available to a susceptible group of school leaving children.

By vaccinating with B.C.G. the Mantoux negative reactors in the school leaving age group annually it is expected to build up in the adolescent community a broad front of population protected against tuberculosis over the period of greatest danger and casualty risk. It is sincerely felt that this form of preventive work will add in no small measure to the relief from this crippling disease. It is of course appreciated that some ten years or more must elapse before the full impact of this form of prophylaxis will be felt though it is anticipated that some reduction in incidence will be seen earlier.

Until this disease becomes a rarity like smallpox no relaxation in the battle can or will be allowed.

TUBERCULOSIS
INCIDENCE AND DOMICILIARY CARE.

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Number of Cases on Register 1st. January, 1954.	Pulmonary	39	51
	Non-Pulmonary	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	Total	<u>50</u>	<u>64</u>
Number of Cases on Register 31st. December, 1954.	Pulmonary	44	67
	Non-Pulmonary	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>
	Total	<u>57</u>	<u>84</u>
Total Cases		-	141

Number removed from Register as follows:-

Number left district	-	6
Number died	-	1
Number recovered	-	2
Number of new notifications	-	28
Number of in-transfers	-	4
Restored to Register	-	4

TABLE 1.SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT FOR 1954.

These statistics have been confirmed by the Registrar General.

<u>Live Births:-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	191	103	88
Illegitimate	6	2	4

Birth-rate per 1,000 population - 20.63

<u>Still-births:-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Legitimate	6	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still-birth rate per 1,000 total births - 30.4

<u>Deaths:-</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	87	44	43

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 9.11

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

There were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births.....	50.76
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births.....	50.7
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	16
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	0

TABLE 2.ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF INFANTS' DEATHS DURING 1954.

NEONATAL DEATHS : 5 NEONATAL DEATH RATE: 25.38 per
thousand live
births.

1st. 24 hours of life One day -- one month

Spina Bifida	1	5
Broncho Pneumonia	-	1

DEATHS DURING ONE MONTH TO ONE YEAR OF AGE : 5.

Pneumococcal Meningitis	-	1
Acute Bronchitis	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia	-	1
Asphyxia	-	1
Infantile Co-arctation of Aorta	-	1

TABLE 3.TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1954:-

	<u>PULMONARY</u>		<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-
Over 1 year and under 5 years.	-	-	-	1
Over 5 years and under 10 years.	-	-	1	2
Over 10 years and under 15 years.	-	2	-	-
Over 15 years and under 20 years.	5	3	-	-
Over 20 years and under 25 years.	2	2	-	1
Over 25 years and under 35 years.	-	5	-	-
Over 35 years and under 45 years.	2	-	-	-
Over 45 years and under 55 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 55 years and under 65 years.	-	-	-	-
Over 65 years.	2	-	-	-
<hr/>				
Totals	11	12	1	4

TABLE 4.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1954

(as recorded by Registrar General)

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory.....	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, Non-Respiratory.....	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease.....	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, Bronchus.....	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, Breast.....	-	1
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus.....	-	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	3	6
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	4	5
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	10	3
19. Hypertension, with heart disease.....	1	5
20. Other heart disease.....	2	8
21. Other circulatory disease.....	3	4
22. Influenza.....	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	1	-
24. Bronchitis.....	4	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	4	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	-
27. Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	2	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	3	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-
34. All other accidents.....	3	-
35. Suicide.....	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-

All causes..... 44 43
